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1999

K-12 Education

1999 Legislative Session Summary of Legislation Related to K-12 Education

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Table of Contents

Accreditation/Curriculum	1
Appropriations	3
At-Risk Youth	6
Elections	9
Employment Relations	10
Safety	14
School Finance	16
Teacher Certification	32
Index of K-12 Education-Related Bills	34

Contributors

Joan Anderson, OPI
Tom Bilodeau, MEA
Kathy Bramer, OPI
Lynda Brannon, MASBO
Bill Cooper, OPI

Geralyn Driscoll, OPI
Kathy Fabiano, OPI
Eric Feaver, MEA
Janice Frankino-Doggett
Loran Frazier, SAM

Joe Lamson, OPI
Catherine Love, OPI
Lance Melton, MSBA
Madalyn Quinlan, OPI
Don Waldron, MREA

Layout by Beth Satre, OPI

Accreditation/Curriculum

HB 528 JUNEAU, CAROL
IMPLEMENT AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
CHAPTER NUMBER: 527 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/29/99

The Montana Constitution recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians. Local trustees may require all certified personnel to receive instruction in American Indian Studies. When developing courses of study for this instruction, the Montana University System, the Office of Public Instruction, and local school districts must include input from tribal communities and colleges, educators of Indian descent, tribal education departments or other recognized Indian Education Specialists.

HB 584 JUNEAU, CAROL
CLASSROOM USE OF SURPLUS STATE PROPERTY
CHAPTER NUMBER: 441 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/23/99

HB 584 authorizes state agencies to donate surplus property to school districts for classroom use. The Office of Public Instruction will develop procedures to ensure that school districts receive adequate notice of available surplus property and that any surplus property is distributed fairly. The procedures will focus on computers and other technology related equipment.

HJ 14 ADAMS, DARRELL
URGE ADOPTION OF EDDIE EAGLE ELEMENTARY
GUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

The superintendent of public instruction is encouraged to promote and local districts are encouraged to adopt the "Eddie Eagle Elementary Gun Safety Education Program." The Office of Public Instruction will carry out its responsibilities through its Health Enhancement and Safety Division.

HJ 21 LAWSON, BOB
URGE USE OF INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

School districts are encouraged to work with community organizations in developing programs and recruiting volunteers to work with school children in grades K-12 to enhance students' academic, problem solving, interpersonal, and citizenship skills.

SB 131 SWYSGOOD, CHUCK
REVISE LAWS GOVERNING COMMUNITY SERVICE
CHAPTER NUMBER: 150 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

SB 131 amended the Montana Community Service Act, making the terminology consistent with the National Community Service Act.

SB 428 STANG, SPOOK
TRANSFER MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS TO REGENTS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 181 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

The responsibility for conducting training, developing curriculum, collecting fees, hiring staff, and monitoring the motorcycle safety program is transferred to the Board of Regents from the Office of Public Instruction.

SJ 2 BARTLETT, SUE
URGE FINANCIAL PLANNING AS PART OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

The Office of Public Instruction will urge those charged with developing performance and content standards, the Board of Public Education, and local districts to integrate basic economic and consumer principles, personal financing, and retirement planning into applicable standards and local curriculums.

Failed Legislation: Accreditation/Curriculum

HB 242 JORE, RICK
ELIMINATE COMPULSORY ENROLLMENT AND NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

HB 335 VICK, STEVE
ELIMINATE ARTS COUNCIL AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ART EDUCATION AND APPRECIATION

HB 376 WALTERS, ALLAN
ACCESS TO OBSCENE MATERIAL

HB 549 LINDEEN, MONICA
LOWER COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO AGE SIX

HB 608 SOMERVILLE, ROGER
REVISE FUNDING FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

SB 3 TOEWS, DARYL
CLARIFY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE STATUTES

SB 152 WELLS, JACK
DECLARING THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO DIRECT UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

SB 204 KEATING, TOM
CHARTER SCHOOL ENABLING LEGISLATION

Appropriations

HB 2 ZOOK, TOM

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

CHAPTER NUMBER: 578 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

HB 2 contains the majority of state agency appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999. The appropriations include approximately \$11.7 million to operate the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in each of the next two fiscal years and \$535 million each year for distributions of state and federal aid to schools. Highlights for K-12 education include:

- \$360,314 in general funds to upgrade three automated systems that OPI uses to manage, analyze, and report K-12 education data. The systems to be updated are MAEFAIRS, the annual non-fiscal data collection system (i.e., Fall Report), and the teacher certification system.
- \$5.4 million in new federal funds to develop a School-to-Work system, \$5.1 million of which will be awarded in local grants. OPI will work with local school staff to develop the career counseling-exploration component of School-to-Work, as well as coordinate and oversee the awarding of local grants.
- \$1.1 million in general funds for the completion and implementation of school improvement projects begun during the 1999 biennium. Tasks for the 2001 biennium include: the revision of academic standards for social studies, fine arts, library media, and vocational-practical arts; the implementation of standards and a system of statewide assessment; a review of Montana's accreditation process; and the continuation of the *Montana Statewide Education Profile*.
- \$1.3 million in new federal funds for school districts to implement model school reform programs based on reliable research and effective practices. The program is designed to assist schools that need to substantially improve student achievement, particularly those schools eligible for ESEA Title I funds.
- \$130,000 in general funds to increase total state funding for secondary vocational education by 10 percent.
- \$5.6 million in new federal funds to reduce class sizes. Congress has approved a new program to reduce class sizes by providing support for local districts to recruit, hire, and train certified regular and special education teachers. Particular consideration must be given to reducing class size in the early elementary grades.
- \$1.9 million in general funds to increase state special education payments to schools and to pay related guaranteed tax base aid increases. (SB 100 appropriates an additional \$1.5 million for special education, thus increases in state special education funding total \$3.4 million for the biennium.)

- If general fund money appropriated for OPI operations is not needed for that purpose, HB 2 authorizes the state superintendent to use up to \$30,000 for stipends to Montana public school teachers who obtain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Each public school teacher who obtains this certification may receive a onetime stipend of \$5,000 or less. To qualify, a teacher must be a full-time employee of a Montana public school district, an education cooperative or the School for the Deaf and Blind; a full-time classroom teacher, librarian, or serving in an assignment covered by the National Board certification assessment; and certified to teach in Montana. A teacher is eligible for the stipend in the fiscal school year after the teacher obtains certification.
- \$8 million of tobacco settlement money to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For more details on CHIP see SB 81.
- \$7 million of tobacco settlement money to the DPHHS for tobacco prevention and education programs.
- \$1.6 million of tobacco settlement money to the National Guard to operate a "Youth Challenge Program" aimed at high school dropouts. The program provides education, guidance, and counseling.
- \$2 million of tobacco settlement money to the Montana Comprehensive Health Association, which provides comprehensive health insurance benefits to individuals regardless of their health conditions. The program is funded through premiums paid by enrollees and assessments paid by health insurers.
- \$48.4 million of additional tobacco settlement money. These remaining funds are split; \$20 million goes to the state general fund for day-to-day operations, and \$28.4 million remains in a reserve account for the 2001 legislature to allocate.

The appropriation for increases in direct state aid and GTB payments is contained in SB 100, and the appropriation to reimburse districts for property tax reductions is contained in SB 184. See the description for these bills in the *School Finance* section of this booklet.

SJ 12 COLE, MACK
URGE CONGRESS NOT TO KEEP STATE TOBACCO
SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

SJ 12 urges Congress to prohibit the federal government and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from claiming a portion of the proceeds in the settlement reached in the class action suit between some states and the tobacco companies.

Failed Legislation: Appropriations

HB 131 KASTEN, BETTY LOU
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS
USE

HB140 PAVLOVICH, BOB
REVISE LOTTERY LAWS

HB303 KRENZLER, BILLIE
RESTRICT USE OF TOBACCO SETTLE-
MENT PROCEEDS TO PURPOSES
RELATED TO CLAIMS MADE

HB372 COBB, JOHN
ALLOCATE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
PROCEEDS

HB406 WILLIAMS, CAROL
EDUCATION TRUST FUND

HB 568 MCCANN, MATT
APPROPRIATE \$2 MILLION TO RE-
BUILD HAYS-LODGEPOLE SCHOOL

HB 613 MANGAN, JEFF
DPHHS TO ADMINISTER TOBACCO
EDUCATION CURRICULUM

HB 650 FACEY, TOM
INCREASE TANF FUNDS TO BE USED
FOR ADULT LITERACY AND BASIC
EDUCATION FOR FAIM

SB 247 GLASER, BILL
USE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PRO-
CEEDS TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL
MEDICAID REQUIREMENTS

SB 323 DOHERTY, STEVE
ESTABLISH HEALTH CARE TRUST
WITH TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
PROCEEDS

SB 489 BOHLINGER, JOHN
USE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PRO-
CEEDS FOR PREVENTION AND
CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

At-Risk Youth

HB 81 MENAHAN, RED

REVISE SENTENCE FOR YOUTH WHO COMMIT SERIOUS OFFENSES

CHAPTER NUMBER: 390 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

A youth who has been transferred from the Youth Court to District Court and found guilty of an offense in 41-5-206(1), MCA, may be committed to the Department of Corrections for more than five years.

HB 176 BERGSAGEL, ERNEST

MAINTAIN ELECTRONIC YOUTH COURT RECORDS

CHAPTER NUMBER: 106 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

HB 176 provides access to certain electronic records maintained by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for the purpose of research and program evaluation. The youth's name will be removed from those DPHHS records that are to be sealed under the provisions of the Youth Court Act.

HB 180 SOFT, LOREN

GUARDIANSHIP PETITION FOR YOUTH IN NEED OF CARE

CHAPTER NUMBER: 428 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) or a guardian *ad litem* may petition the court to appoint a guardian for a child found to be a "youth in need of care." The petition may be made either as part or not as part of a termination of parental rights. HB 180 also clarifies that DPHHS may provide a subsidy for the guardianship of a child who is under the legal custody of the department.

HB 310 MOLNAR, BRAD

SCHOOL NOTICE OF YOUTH VIOLATING STATUTE

CHAPTER NUMBER: 564 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

If after an investigation the Youth Court has reason to believe that a youth is currently involved in drug use or criminal activity that has bearing on the safety of children, it shall notify the school district where the student attends school or has applied to attend. The school district may disclose, without consent, personally identifiable information from a student's records pertaining to violations of the Montana Youth Court Act or criminal laws to the Youth Court and law enforcement authorities. A school district may not refuse to admit a student if the refusal violates the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1990.

**SB 54 HALLIGAN, MIKE
REVISE YOUTH COURT ACT****CHAPTER NUMBER: 532 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99**

SB 54 adds "escape" and "assault" to the list of offenses that can be filed in District Court and creates the category "criminally convicted youth" for youth that are convicted in District Court. It also clarifies the number and types of offenses committed by a youth that may result in an informal disposition. SB 54 allows the Department of Corrections to cap the number of youth in its correctional facilities and pay to place youth awaiting space in an alternative program either in Montana or another state.

**SB 81 HARP, JOHN
ESTABLISH CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM****CHAPTER NUMBER: 571 EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/06/99**

SB 81 establishes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The program provides health insurance to children whose family's combined income falls below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. To qualify, a child must be 18 or younger, ineligible for Medicaid, and not be covered by any other health insurance. Funding for CHIP will come from the tobacco settlement proceeds.

**SB 124 BECK, TOM
REVISE MENTAL HEALTH LAWS****CHAPTER NUMBER: 247 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/5/99**

SB 124 clarifies the laws relating to mental health. Revisions affect voluntary commitments, discharge planning, transfers from the Department of Corrections to a mental health facility, and diversions from a detention center to a mental health facility.

**SB 199 CHRISTIAENS, CHRIS
MANDATORY EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN DETENTION CENTERS****CHAPTER NUMBER: 536 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/29/99**

SB 199 requires that youth detention centers provide an education program to the youth they are holding.

Detention centers are eligible to receive \$20 a day for each youth held for more than nine consecutive days. The school district in which the youth's parents reside is responsible for the payment. Detention centers will bill school districts once a year by June 30. School districts must send payments to the detention centers no later than July 15. Detention centers may contract with school districts to provide educational services. Schools can also contract with detention centers to use the centers as alternative education sites.

SB 306 GRIMES, DUANE
CONTINUITY OF CARE IN CHILD CUSTODY MATTERS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 541 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/29/99

SB 306 makes it more difficult to change an interim parenting plan when a divorce proceeding is pending.

SB 364 ECK, DOROTHY
ALLOW STANDARDIZED APPLICATION UNDER MEDICAID
AND RELATED PROGRAMS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 215 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/30/99

SB 364 directs the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to simplify the application used to determine a child's eligibility for medical benefits as provided in 53-6-131, MCA, child-only group health insurance provided through federal Title IV-D, or health care under the Children's Health Insurance Program (SB 81).

Failed Legislation: At-Risk Youth

HB 143 SOMERVILLE, ROGER
PEER REVIEW COURT FOR
JUVENILES

SB 250 BARTLETT, SUE
REPEAL EXTENDED JURISDICTION
PROSECUTION ACT

HB 243 LAWSON, BOB
REVISE LAWS GOVERNING CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SB 309 BOHLINGER, JOHN
REVISE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
AND TRUANCY LAWS

HB 269 MOLNAR, BRAD
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Elections

SB 140 NELSON, LINDA
REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON ABSENTEE VOTING
CHAPTER NUMBER: 151 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

SB 140 removes the provisions that a voter must be sick or out of the county in order to vote by absentee ballot.

SB 325 HERTEL, JOHN
REVISE SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCEDURES
CHAPTER NUMBER: 132 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/23/99

If there are no contested seats in a school board election and there is no other reason for an election, the trustees may give notice that an election will not be held. Notice of the cancellation must be given no later than 14 days before the election date. If the election is not held, the trustees shall declare the candidates elected by acclamation and issue a "certificate of election" to each candidate.

SB 460 ELLIS, ALVIN
GENERALLY REVISE SCHOOL LAWS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 514 EFFECTIVE DATE: ON PASSAGE

(See *School Finance* Section, page 26)

Failed Legislation: Elections

HB 342 RANEY, BOB
REVISE RESTRICTIONS ON TAX
ELECTION INFORMATION

HB 496 CURTISS, AUBYN
ONE SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION
PER YEAR

HB 445 JUNEAU, CAROL
SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

SB 38 ELLIS, ALVIN
REVISE LAWS GOVERNING
PRINTING OF BALLOT

HB 446 JUNEAU, CAROL
AUTHORIZE INACTIVE LIST VOTERS
TO VOTE IN STATE AND LOCAL
ELECTIONS

SB 228 GLASER, BILL
REVISE ELECTION DATES

HB 469 BRAINARD, MATT
REVISE CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION
LAWS

Employment Relations

HB 13 JOHNSON, ROYAL PAY PLAN FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER NUMBER: 558 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

The pay and benefits plan for state employees affects three different dimensions of employee pay. First, it increases entry, market, and maximum salary rates in the state pay schedules effective September 25, 1999 and September 23, 2000. Second, the bill provides for employees to receive a 3 percent base salary increase on their anniversary date, beginning after July 1, 1999. This raise will occur in each year of the biennium. Third, effective October 1, 1999, HB 13 increases the longevity allowance by an additional 0.5 percent for employees who have completed 15 and 20 years of service.

HB 13 ties the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned vehicles to the federal rate for the current year, and increases the state contribution to employee health insurance. Under HB 13, the employer contribution for group benefits is \$270 per month for July to December 1999, \$285 per month for calendar year 2000, and \$295 per month beginning January 2001.

HB 72 MERCER, JOHN GUARANTEED ANNUAL BENEFIT ADJUSTMENT FOR TRS

CHAPTER NUMBER: 360 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

HB 72 establishes a guaranteed annual benefit adjustment (GABA) for individuals eligible for Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) benefits. Beginning January 2000 and each January thereafter, the GABA will provide a 1.5 percent increase in a TRS retiree's pension benefit starting three years after the date of his or her retirement. HB 72 also establishes a \$500 minimum TRS benefit to all TRS retirees with more than 25 years of TRS service credit. This benefit adjustment will take place in July of 1999.

HB 79 BRAINARD, MATT DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN WITHIN PERS

CHAPTER NUMBER: 471 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/27/99

An optional "defined contribution" (DC) plan will be established within the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and become operational no later than July 1, 2002. The PERS will provide the "defined contribution" plan in addition to the current "defined benefit" plan. The DC plan is intended to provide for greater employee control of their own retirement account by allowing employees to select from a menu of investment options. The retirement benefit payment from the DC accounts will vary depending on the rates of contribution and the success of the individual investment choices.

HB 79 also provides for a member education program to include plan choices, member options under each plan, and information on preparing for retirement.

HB 118 MOOD, DOUG
REVISE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT LAWS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 111 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

HB 118 revises the Teachers' Retirement Act to retain the tax advantaged status of benefits and investment earnings. It also gives TRS members the option to purchase additional service time through payroll deduction with tax-deferred dollars and gives them the option to contribute to termination pay with tax-deferred dollars. In order to qualify for the second option, a local school board must adopt a resolution and an agreement form, and the individual member must sign an "irrevocable election form." The minimum duration of the payroll deduction is three months, and the maximum duration is 60 months.

HB 119 MOOD, DOUG
MEET QUALIFICATIONS FOR TAX-DEFERRED
QUALIFIED STATE RETIREMENT LAWS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 58 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

The Public Employees' Retirement Board requested this bill to bring the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) into compliance with IRS code regulations, thereby protecting the tax-deferred status of the PERS. The primary effects of HB 119 are to allow PERS members to purchase service time using pre-tax dollars and to clarify the process for refunds to terminated employees.

HB 583 THOMAS, FRED
PROVIDE LEAVE FOR STATE EMPLOYEE DISASTER
AND EMERGENCY WORK
CHAPTER NUMBER: 225 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/1/99

State agencies may now grant up to 15 days of paid leave for employees to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the Red Cross. Volunteers must have specialized Red Cross certification. Agencies retain the authority to approve or deny specific leave requests.

SB 5 TESTER, JOHN
ELIMINATE PERS MEMBERSHIP FEE
CHAPTER NUMBER: 286 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

Employers will no longer have to pay an annual per-member administrative fee to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). This one dollar

annual fee cost nearly as much to monitor and collect as the fee itself and its elimination is anticipated to save staff time and trouble for PERS and participating employers.

SB 90 STANG, SPOOK
REVISE VETERANS' PREFERENCE LAW
CHAPTER NUMBER: 168 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

Effective October 1, 1999, veterans' preference for hiring will be expanded. As a result of SB 90, when a public employer uses a selection procedure other than a scored procedure, the employer will give preference to a disabled veteran, an eligible relative or veteran, in that order, over any non-preferred applicant with substantially equal qualifications. The bill strikes the requirement that an applicant achieve 70 percent of the total possible points granted and substitutes "meets the minimum qualifications required for the position."

SB 195 LYNCH, JD
REVISE MILITARY SERVICE PURCHASE PROVISIONS FOR PERS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 494 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

PERS participating employees who are veterans with Korean or Vietnam service will have the opportunity to purchase that service time at a reduced rate for their retirement accounts. The purchase rate is substantially below the full actuarial rate for the time. This is a return to the practice in place at PERS before June, 1997.

SB 229 THOMAS, FRED
REVISE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 496 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/27/99

SB 229 exempts school districts that have previously privately contracted for services from paying prevailing wages for non-construction services, defined in 18-2-401(8), MCA. Those services include maintenance of facilities, custodial services, grounds maintenance, public school transportation, nursing, cooking and food services, and motor vehicle repair. The exemption applies to contracts entered into after the act's effective date.

Failed Legislation: Employment Relations

HB 122 JORE, RICK
WORKERS FREEDOM ACT

HB 247 HARRINGTON, DAN
REVISE UNEMPLOYMENT LAWS FOR
CERTAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

HB 249 HARRINGTON, DAN
INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

HB 256 COBB, JOHN
STATE CONTRIBUTION TO DEFERRED
COMPENSATION PLAN

HB 312 GALVIN-HALCRO, KATHLEEN
BINDING ARBITRATION FOR PUBLIC
EMPLOYERS

HB 378 FUCHS, DAN
REWARD, RETAIN, AND ATTRACT
HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS

HB 381 MOLNAR, BRAD
REPEAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRA-
TION

HB 489 WAGNER, DOUG
EXPAND DRUG TESTING LAWS

HB 529 JUNEAU, CAROL
INDIAN PREFERENCE IN
EDUCATION

SB 295 DOHERTY, STEVE
STRIKE GABA RETURN TO WORK
PROVISIONS

SB 328 ELLINGSON, JOHN
PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED
ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Safety

HJ 13 MCKENNEY, JOE
URGE FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

The Board of Public Education (BPE), the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and school district trustees are urged to make every effort to ensure that at least one individual trained in First Aid and CPR is present in every public school. The same entities are also encouraged to design and implement continuing education coursework in First Aid and CPR for school personnel.

OPI must provide a status report on both the training and assignment that takes place over the next two years to the 57th legislature. OPI will use the Fall Report to collect the appropriate data.

HJ 20 QUILICI, JOE
URGE SCHOOLS TO USE LOCAL AND STATE EXPERTISE
IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

Accredited schools are encouraged to develop school emergency plans in cooperation and coordination with state and local emergency services departments. The plans should identify local hazards and appropriate safety drills. Schools are strongly encouraged to review and update their emergency management plans regularly. City, county, and state emergency agencies are encouraged to work with school districts free of charge.

HJ 25 GILLAN, KIM
RESOLUTION URGING LOWER SPEED LIMITS IN SCHOOL ZONES
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

City and county governments and the Montana State Department of Transportation are encouraged to lower the speed limit in school zones, which are under their jurisdiction, to 15 miles per hour.

Failed Legislation: Safety

HB 37 **QUILICI, JOE**
SCHOOL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

HB 45 **LAWSON, BOB**
REVISE LAW GOVERNING POSSES-
SION OF WEAPON IN SCHOOL ZONE

HB 114 **MCCULLOCH, LINDA**
MOTORIST TO YIELD TO BUS
ENTERING TRAFFIC

HB 149 **DAVIES, BOB**
REVISE AUTHORITY FOR ADMINIS-
TRATIVE REGULATIONS OF
FIREARMS

HB 261 **NOENNIG, MARK**
REVISE LAW ON IMMUNITY AND
LIABILITY

HB 321 **FUCHS, DAN**
REVISE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS
FOR PASSENGER ELEVATORS

HB 323 **BRAINARD, MATT**
ALLOW CERTAIN 15-YEAR-OLDS TO
BE LICENSED AS DRIVERS

HB 356 **GILLAN, KIM**
GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING
PROGRAM

SB 37 **KEENAN, BOB**
REQUIRE LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR
MOTORCYCLES

SB 65 **SHEA, DEBBIE**
REVISE LAWS GOVERNING POSSES-
SION OF WEAPONS ON SCHOOL
PROPERTY

School Finance

HB 71 ROSE, SAM

LIMIT IMPACT OF ENROLLMENT DECREASE TO 6 PERCENT

CHAPTER NUMBER: 359 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

See description of SB 460.

HB 90 HAGENER, TONI

**ALLOW DISTRICT TO ESTIMATE NON-LEVY REVENUE
FOR COMPUTING GENERAL FUND LEVY**

CHAPTER NUMBER: 561 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/19/99

To calculate the general fund levy requirement, schools may now use "reasonable estimates" for certain non-levy revenue sources rather than prior year actual amounts. The non-levy revenue sources that qualify are: light vehicle taxes, tuition, oil and gas production taxes, and corporation license taxes. Starting with school year 2001, the budget for light vehicle taxes must reflect at least 75 percent of the prior year's actual receipts. Coal gross proceeds and property tax reimbursements must be budgeted using information the Department of Revenue (DOR) provides to districts. General fund mills must be calculated using a district's current total taxable valuation, as certified by the DOR.

For districts collecting less non-levy revenue in school year 1999 than in school year 1998, HB 90 provides for a one-time levy sufficient to eliminate a negative general fund balance and restore operating reserves to the 1999 amount. This section of the bill terminates July 1, 2001.

HB 128 GILLAN, KIM

REVISE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX

CHAPTER NUMBER: 426 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/00

HB 128 imposes a 3.75 percent excise tax on the sales price of retail telecommunications services, depositing the revenue in the state general fund. The tax rate on centrally assessed telecommunications property is reduced from 12 to 6 percent. The tax rate on rural telecommunications services is reduced from 8 to 3 percent. HB 128 also adjusts a school district's bonding limitation to include 50 percent of the taxable valuation of telecommunications properties within the district for tax year 1999 multiplied by 45 percent.

HB 174 HIBBARD, CHASE

REVISE TAXATION OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITIES

CHAPTER NUMBER: 556 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/00

HB 174 imposes a wholesale energy transaction (WET) tax on electricity

transmitted and sold within Montana. The tax rate is set at .015 cents per kilowatt-hour, and the revenue is to be deposited into the state general fund. Municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives are exempt from the WET tax.

HB 174 also lowers the property tax rate on electrical generation facilities from 12 to 6 percent. The bonding limitations of school districts are adjusted to include 50 percent of the taxable valuation of electrical generation property within the district for tax year 1999 multiplied by 45 percent.

HB 304 NOENNIG, MARK
CLARIFY THE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES RENDERED TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHAPTER NUMBER: 368 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/20/99

School districts need not follow bid requirements when contracting with registered professional engineers, surveyors, real estate appraisers, architects, physicians, dentists, pharmacists or other medical, dental, or health care providers, attorneys, consulting actuaries, licensed private investigators, claims adjusters, or accountants licensed under Title 37, chapter 50, MCA.

HB 348 FACEY, TOM
CHANGE REQUIRED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE
FROM JULY TO AUGUST
CHAPTER NUMBER: 467 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/26/99

HB 348 requires the board of trustees to hold a regular meeting in the month of August and eliminates the mandatory July meeting for all districts except first-class elementary districts.

HB 419 MCCULLOCH, LINDA
INTER-ENTITY BOND ISSUES
CHAPTER NUMBER: 166 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

The trustees of a school district may enter into a contract with another district or political subdivision within the county or an adjoining county for the construction of a facility. The trustees may levy taxes and issue bonds to finance the construction. The facility must be owned jointly by the districts or other political subdivisions contributing to its construction. HB 419 applies to contracts entered into on or after July 1, 1999.

HB 420 DALE, RICK
ALLOW DEDUCTION OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS
IN COMPUTING TAXES ON METAL MINES
CHAPTER NUMBER: 524 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/30/99

HB 420 allows for the deduction of costs related to the transportation of

minerals from the mine to the smelter when calculating gross proceeds taxes. The legislation applies to metal mine production after December 31, 1998.

HB 540 GRINDE, LARRY

REGISTRATION FEE ON LIGHT VEHICLES

**CHAPTER NUMBER: 515 EFFECTIVE DATE: ON APPROVAL
BY ELECTORATE**

HB 540 submits to Montana voters a proposal to switch the registration fee for light vehicles from a tax based on the value of the vehicle to a flat fee based on the age of the vehicle. Light vehicles are defined as all cars and trucks under one ton. Under HB 540, the registration fee on light vehicles that are four years old or less would be \$195, five to ten years old would be \$65, and 11 years or older would be \$6. The proposal provides for a 24-month vehicle registration. Counties may continue to impose a local option tax of up to 0.5 percent of a vehicle's value or impose a flat fee on top of the registration fee with voter approval.

None of the registration fees would be allocated to the 95 mills for schools, six mills for the university system, or mill levies for public assistance programs in state-assumed counties. The school district general fund will be reimbursed up to the amount of motor vehicle fees deposited in the district general fund in FY 1999. The proposal will be on the ballot in November 2000. If approved, the new fee structure will be effective January 1, 2001.

HB 616 LINDEEN, MONICA

PROVIDE FOR THE RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT BY E-MAIL

CHAPTER NUMBER: 484 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/00

If a state agency is capable of receiving electronic mail (e-mail) from the Internet, the agency must provide for receipt of public comment using e-mail, including adopting rules pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. State agencies must use appropriate media to disseminate the e-mail address to which public comment may be made.

HB 658 CLARK, EDITH

**REVISE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SEVERANCE TAX
TO INCLUDE "STRIPPER WELL EXEMPTION"**

CHAPTER NUMBER: 488 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/27/99

HB 658 creates a new category of oil production called "stripper well exemption." Any stripper well that produces three barrels of oil a day or less falls into this category. Production from these wells is taxed at 0.8 percent of the gross taxable value of production for working interests and 15.1 percent for nonworking interests. Schools and counties do not receive any of the taxes collected from working interests in this category. The legislation applies to oil produced after June 30, 1999.

HB 661 REHBEIN, BILL
REVISE TAXATION OF OIL PRODUCTION FROM A STRIPPER WELL
CHAPTER NUMBER: 530 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/30/99

HB 661 increases the maximum number of barrels that an oil well can produce in a day and still be classified as a stripper well from 10 to 15. The tax rate on the first 10 barrels of production is set at 5.8 percent of the gross taxable value of production. The tax rate on production greater than 10 barrels is 9.3 percent. Nonworking interests are taxed at 15.1 percent.

HB 661 eliminates the distinction between stripper oil production from pre-1985 and post-1985 wells. The legislation applies to oil produced after June 30, 1999.

HB 669 STORY, BOB
REVISE TAXATION OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION PROPERTY
CHAPTER NUMBER: 531 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/30/99

HB 669 revises the valuation formula for railroad transportation property. The revision applies to tax year 1999 and beyond.

HJ 1 MCCULLOCH, LINDA
SUPPORT SCHOOL FUNDING
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

The Senate and House of Representatives jointly resolve to provide Montana's system of public education with funding that:

- is commensurate with the growth in Montana's economy and inflation;
- increases teacher salaries to a level that is competitive with other states;
- meets the state's constitutional obligation to fund the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system; and
- provides funding for building maintenance, construction and reconstruction, technology acquisition, textbooks, classroom supplies and library materials.

HJ 2 STORY, BOB
REVENUE ESTIMATING RESOLUTION
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

HJ 2 lists actual and estimated revenues for 35 general fund revenue sources and 15 non-general fund revenue sources for state fiscal years 1998 through 2001. The resolution also articulates many of the economic assumptions that drive the revenue estimates. In building the budget for the 2001 biennium, the legislature anticipated general fund receipts of \$30 million in capital gains from the sale of Montana Power Company's electrical generation facilities and \$66.8 million in tobacco settlement money.

HJ 28 GRINDE, LARRY
URGE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON SPECIAL EDUCATION
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

The Montana Senate and House of Representatives urge Congress and the President to increase funding for special education to meet the federal government's commitment under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HJ 29 BARNHART, BEVERLY
INTERIM STUDY OF LAWS GOVERNING COUNTIES
CHAPTER NUMBER: N/A EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A

HJ 29 requests an interim legislative study of laws affecting local governments and local officials. The interim committee is requested to prepare legislation to provide consistency in public notice and hearing requirements, records management, local elections, and contracting and bidding.

SB 15 COLE, MACK
COMPUTATION OF REIMBURSEMENTS FOR REDUCTION
IN BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX RATE
CHAPTER NUMBER: 245 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/05/99

In 1995, the legislature approved SB 417, which lowered the property tax rate on business equipment and established reimbursements for schools and local governments. Beginning in tax year 1999, the SB 417 reimbursements are phased-down by 10 percent annually and eliminated by tax year 2008. SB 15 clarifies that tax year 1998 is the base year for computing the 10 percent annual reductions.

SB 31 STANG, SPOOK
REVISE SCHEDULE OF BASE AID PAYMENTS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 308 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

SB 31 revises the schedule for state BASE aid payments to school districts by moving the July 15 payment back to June, thereby completing a district's annual distribution prior to the end of the school fiscal year. This bill applies to school years beginning after June 30, 1999, so the final distribution of state aid for the 1999 school fiscal year will still occur in July.

SB 49 SWYSGOOD, CHUCK
REVISE ALLOCATION OF METAL MINES TAXES AND RIT EARNINGS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 144 EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/99

SB 49 changes the allocation of metal mines taxes and Resource Indemnity Trust Fund interest earnings among programs within state government.

These reallocations have no impact on the distribution of metal mine taxes to those schools and counties impacted by mining.

SB 69 STANG, SPOOK**GENERALLY REVISE AND CLARIFY SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS****CHAPTER NUMBER: 343 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99**

SB 69 is primarily a "cleanup" bill, which corrects, clarifies and simplifies certain school finance laws. The bill also enables the state to reimburse schools for valid transportation claims when unforeseen circumstances require a district to extend a bus route mid-year. Highlights of the bill include:

- The due date for the annual trustees' financial summary is changed to the second Monday in September, consistent with the due date for a district's budget.
- Trustees are allowed to determine the fund used to deposit money received from insurance settlements. Existing law limited deposit of insurance settlements to the building fund.
- A county's responsibility for paying tuition and transportation costs for a child with disabilities, who is placed by a state agency in foster care or a group home outside the child's district and county of residence, is clarified. This is only a clarification and not a change to current practice.
- The state is allowed to reimburse a district for necessary bus route extensions and new parent contracts for pupil transportation that were not included in the original budget. A school district still needs to formally amend its transportation budget to claim the additional state reimbursement.
- An inconsistency in deadlines for transportation forms due to the county superintendent from schools is corrected. Districts are required to send their bus route forms and parent contracts for transportation to the county with the budget form on the second Monday in September.
- If the February 1 enrollment count date is not a school day, the count date is the following school day.

SB 100 HARP, JOHN**INCREASE BASIC ENTITLEMENT AND PER-ANB ENTITLEMENTS****CHAPTER NUMBER: 211 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99**

The per-ANB entitlement for elementary schools is increased to \$3,529 for school fiscal year 2000 and to \$3,653 for school fiscal year 2001. The high school per-ANB entitlement is increased to \$4,821 for school fiscal year 2000 and to \$4,869 for school fiscal year 2001. The basic entitlements for elementary and high schools remain at \$18,000 and \$200,000, respectively.

For school fiscal year 2000, direct state aid is increased to 41.1 percent and guaranteed tax base aid (GTB) is decreased to 38.9 percent of an eligible

district's basic and total per-ANB entitlements. For school fiscal year 2001, direct state aid is increased to 41.8 percent and GTB is decreased to 38.2 percent.

SB 100 appropriates \$34.7 million to OPI for the state share of the increase in per-ANB entitlements, and also appropriates an additional \$1.5 million for special education and related GTB payments.

SB 111 DEPRATU, BOB
EXEMPTION OF INTANGIBLE PROPERTY FROM TAXATION
CHAPTER NUMBER: 583 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/00

SB 111 exempts intangible personal property from taxation. Intangible personal property includes certificates of stock, bonds, promissory notes, licenses, copyrights, patents, trademarks, contracts, software, and franchises. The bill provides for a three-year phase-in of the exemption for intangible personal property owned by centrally-assessed companies such as utilities, pipelines, railroads and airlines. The legislation applies to tax year 2000 and beyond.

SB 134 MALHUM, DALE
ELIMINATE INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES
CHAPTER NUMBER: 310 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/1/99

SB 134 eliminates personal liability for good faith investment decisions regarding school district funds. It clarifies that trustees have the same protections as other public employees and officials if personal claims are brought against trustees.

SB 184 GROSFIELD, LORENTS
GENERALLY REVISE PROPERTY TAX LAW
CHAPTER NUMBER: 584 EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/10/99

SB 184 has a number of effects on school budgets, taxable valuations, state revenue collections, and property tax reimbursements. Those effects are summarized below.

Effects on school budgets

SB 184 limits the property tax collections of school districts to the prior year amount for the combined district transportation fund, adult education fund, bus depreciation fund, and nonoperating fund. The limitation is placed on the amount of taxes assessed, not on the number of mills levied. Collections may be increased due to growth in the property tax base from:

- annexation of real property and improvements into a taxing unit;
- construction, expansion, or remodeling;
- transfer of property into a taxing unit;
- subdivision of real property;

- reclassification of real property; transfer of property from tax-exempt to taxable status; and
- revaluation caused by expansion, addition, replacement, or remodeling.

The school general fund, debt service, building reserve, and tuition levies are not subject to the tax limitations under SB 184. However, the mill levies for the district general fund, debt service fund, and building reserve fund are subject to voter approval under the provisions of Title 20, MCA. County retirement and transportation levies are also not subject to the property tax limitation.

The legislature extended all deadlines for tax year 1999 "as necessary and reasonable," including deadlines for budget adoptions.

SB 184 allows school districts to anticipate non-levy revenues from tuition, motor vehicle fees, oil and gas production taxes, coal gross proceeds, property tax reimbursements, and corporate license taxes in funding the district general fund budget. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, motor vehicles must be budgeted using 75 percent of prior year receipts. (See HB 90 description.) SB 184 also creates an interim local government funding and structure committee to study the funding of local government, including the district courts.

Effects on taxable valuations

Three changes approved in SB 184 will affect the taxable valuation of real property for the upcoming school years. Those changes are the phase-in of 1997 reappraisals, the lowering of the class four property tax rate, and property tax exemptions provided under SB 184.

SB 184 sets the reappraisal of class four property on a six-year cycle. The 1997 reappraisal will be phased-in at 25 percent each year until it is fully effective in tax year 2002. The next reappraisal will be phased-in beginning on January 1, 2003.

The tax rate on class four property is lowered to 3.7105 percent for tax year 1999 and is adjusted downward each year by .0835 until the rate reaches 3.46 percent in tax year 2002.

A portion of the market value of class four property is exempted from taxation according to the following schedule:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Residential Property</u>	<u>Commercial Property</u>
1999	16 percent	6.5 percent
2000	23 percent	9 percent
2001	27.5 percent	11 percent
2002	31 percent	13 percent

The tax rate on forest land is set at 0.68 percent for tax year 1999 and is decreased by .11 each year until it reaches 0.35 percent in tax year 2002.

Effect on state revenue collections

SB 184 directs the Department of Revenue (DOR) to recalculate the 95-mill levy for K-12 education on an annual basis. Collections from the state-wide levy may only increase due to an expansion of the tax base, but not the increased value due to reappraisal.

Property tax reimbursements

Schools and local governments will be reimbursed for property tax and other tax losses that are attributable to reductions in the tax rates on business equipment (SB 200), oil and gas production (SB 530, HB 658, and HB 661), telecommunications property (HB 128), electrical generating facilities (HB 174), and mining transportation costs (HB 420). Schools and local governments will not be reimbursed for property tax losses attributable to the reduction in the tax rates on residential and commercial real estate (SB 184). Reimbursements will be distributed by the Department of Revenue on December 15 and June 15.

OPI will notify school districts of the reimbursement amounts in August of each school year (contingent on OPI's receipt of that information from the Department of Revenue).

The appropriations in SB 184 include:

Interim local government committee	\$ 55,000
Property tax reimbursements	
FY 2000	\$12,900,000
FY 2001	\$54,934,392
Motor vehicle reimbursements to schools	\$ 2,229,934
K-12 BASE aid adjustments	\$ 1,980,000
6-mill levy reimbursements	\$ 2,465,288
Tax increment districts	\$ 600,000
City of Billings - reimbursements	\$ 2,150,000
DOR administration	\$ 1,500,000

SB 200 TAYLOR, MIKE

REDUCTION IN TAX RATES FOR CLASS SIX AND CLASS EIGHT PROPERTY

CHAPTER NUMBER: 285 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/11/99

As of January 1, 2000, the tax rate on business equipment (class eight property) is reduced from 6 to 3 percent, and the class eight property of a person or business entity that owns an aggregate of \$5,000 or less market value of class eight property is exempt from taxation.

SB 200 sets an economic trigger, which is based on growth in Montana wage and salary income, for further reductions in the tax rate on business equipment for tax years 2004 and beyond. The tax rate on livestock and certain personal property intended for rent or lease (class six property) drops 1 percent annually from 4 percent in tax year 1999 to 1 percent in tax year 2002. After January 1, 2003, livestock and certain personal property intended for rent or lease is exempt from taxation.

SB 200 adjusts the calculation of a school district's bonding capacity to compensate for the reductions in class six and class eight properties.

SB 240 GRIMES, DUANE
REQUIRE GOVERNMENT ENTITY TO PAY INTEREST WHEN
MONEY IS OWED TO CONTRACTOR
CHAPTER NUMBER: 222 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

If portions of the payments due a construction contractor are retained until completion of the project, the amount retained must be invested and all interest earnings must be paid to the contractor. The provisions in SB 240 apply to contracts entered into after July 1, 1999.

SB 246 MAHLUM, DALE
REVISE SCHOOL DISTRICT INVESTMENTS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 102 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

A district's board of trustees may either direct the investment of district money themselves or direct the county treasurer to invest the district's funds. If the trustees direct the investments, they must contract with a company licensed to do business in Montana or with the state board of investments for investment services. The law also limits permissible investments.

A district's funds may be invested under the state unified investment program or a unified investment program with the county, other school districts or any other political subdivision, provided the program is limited to investments that meet statutory criteria.

A district that enters into a unified investment program with another district — or with a political subdivision other than the state — must comply with the statutory provisions for interlocal agreements (Title 7, Chapter 11, MCA) and educational cooperative agreements (20-9-7, MCA).

SB 260 GLASER, BILL
REDUCE LIGHT VEHICLE TAX
CHAPTER NUMBER: 180 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/99

SB 260 reduces the light vehicle tax from 2 percent of the vehicle value to 1.4 percent beginning January 1, 2000. For tax years 2001 and beyond, the tax rate will be adjusted downward to prevent the increase in the statewide taxable value of motor vehicles from generating additional revenue statewide. The local option vehicle tax imposed by a county, with voter approval, may not exceed 0.7 percent.

School districts will be reimbursed to the extent that the district's general fund revenues from motor vehicle taxes are less in future years than they are in FY 1999. By January 31, 2001, the Office of Public Instruction will reimburse districts for the shortfall between FY 2000 general fund revenues from motor vehicles and FY 1999 revenues.

SB 274 WILSON, BILL
EXEMPTING SPACE VEHICLES FROM TAXATION
CHAPTER NUMBER: 539 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/99

Beginning January 1, 2000, space vehicles and business personal property used to design, manufacture, and launch space vehicles are exempted from taxation.

SB 288 NELSON, LINDA
SCHOOL TERRITORY TRANSFER
CHAPTER NUMBER: 214 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/30/99

When a district ceases to exist and its territory is transferred to more than one other district, any cash remaining after payment of the district's debts must be prorated between assuming districts on the basis of the taxable value assumed by each, as determined by the county superintendent

SB 299 HERTEL, JOHN
ALLOW PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION BUS
FROM DEPRECIATION FUND
CHAPTER NUMBER: 157 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

The district trustees may use the bus depreciation reserve fund to replace an existing school bus or an activity bus and to purchase an additional school (i.e., yellow) bus for transporting students between home and school.

SB 454 BECK, TOM
REQUIRE STATE PRISON RANCH PILT PAYMENTS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 550 EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/99

SB 454 allocates \$46,000 per year to Powell County for distribution to local governments and schools as a payment in lieu of taxes for FY 2000 and FY 2001. Funding is provided from the enterprise fund established for the operation of the state prison ranch.

SB 460 ELLIS, ALVIN
GENERALLY REVISE SCHOOL LAWS
CHAPTER NUMBER: 514 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/28/99

SB 460 contains provisions that affect school elections, teacher dismissal hearings, and general fund voting and budget limitations. These provisions are summarized below.

Effects on school elections

Effective in 2000, the regular school and trustee election date is changed to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. Absentee ballots must be printed and available at least 20 days before the election. Only one levy election may be held in a calendar year.

Effects on dismissal hearings

SB 460 extends the time limits for a dismissed teacher's hearing and appeal. The hearing date must be no less than 10 days and no more than 20 days from the delivery of the notice of intent to recommend dismissal. A teacher who has been dismissed has 20 days to appeal the dismissal in writing. This section of SB 460 is effective on passage and approval.

Effects on general fund voting provisions

The general fund voting provisions for districts adopting a budget between the BASE and maximum budget limits are amended to require voter approval for an increase in the over-BASE mill levy. If an increase in budget authority can be funded without increasing the over-BASE mill levy, voter approval is not required. The current 4 percent limitation on annual budget growth remains in effect, and districts adopting a budget above maximum must still have voter approval for the over-maximum portion of the budget.

Effects on general fund budget provisions

SB 460 also amends general fund budget limitations for districts currently budgeting between BASE and maximum that have a decline in enrollment.

If a district's ANB declines less than 30 percent and its current year adopted budget exceeds the district's ensuing year maximum budget, the district may adopt a budget up to the ensuing year's maximum budget or 94 percent of the current year's budget, whichever is greater. The district may not exceed its maximum budget limit for more than five consecutive years.

If a district's ANB declines 30 percent or more and its current year adopted budget exceeds the ensuing year maximum budget, the district must reduce the range between its current year adopted budget and the ensuing year's maximum budget by:

- 20 percent in the first year;
- 25 percent in the second year;
- 33.3 percent in the third year;
- 50 percent in the fourth year; and
- the remainder in the fifth year.

A district that, since 1993, has consistently adopted a general fund budget above its maximum budget limit may continue to adopt a budget above maximum. However, the budget adopted for the current year may not exceed the lesser of the adopted budget for the prior year, or the district's current maximum budget plus the over maximum budget amount adopted for the prior year. The over maximum portion of the budget is still subject to voter approval.

Aside from Section 5, which pertains to the dismissal of a teacher, the provisions in SB 460 are effective July 1, 1999 and apply to school years beginning on or after July 1, 2000.

SB 530 BISHOP, AL
GENERALLY REVISE THE TAXATION OF OIL
AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION
CHAPTER NUMBER: 554 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/30/99

SB 530 eliminates the distinction between pre-1985 and post-1985 production in oil and natural gas taxation and repeals the unit value calculation that has been used to distribute taxes from pre-1985 wells. Tax year 1999 is a transition year; the pre- and post-1985 distinction is eliminated effective January 1, 2000. SB 530 creates a new distinction between pre- and post-1999 production and adjusts the tax rates for many of the categories of oil and gas production.

Effective January 1, 2000, oil and gas production taxes are distributed to counties based on taxes received from production in the county. The county treasurer allocates the taxes to taxing units based on prior year mills, including the 95 mills for schools and 6 mills for the university system.

SB 530 repeals references to the local government severance tax on calendar 1995 production. Districts may not carry these tax payments in excess general fund reserves after January 1, 2000.

Failed Legislation: School Finance

HB 21 PAVLOVICH, BOB
FUND CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS WITH LOTTERY NET
PROCEEDS

HB 34 STOVALL, JAY
FUND NON-BENEFICIARY STUDENTS
AT TRIBAL COLLEGES

HB 39 GILLAN, KIM
EXEMPT BUSINESS EQUIPMENT
FROM PROPERTY TAXATION

HB 60 COBB, JOHN
INCREASE CIGARETTE TAX TO FUND
CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

HB 68 COBB, JOHN
CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE BALLOT
MEASURE

HB 86 WYATT, DIANA
BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX
REDUCTION

HB 103 PECK, RAY
REVISE SCHOOL GENERAL FUND
BUDGET VOTING LAW

HB 108 SWANSON, EMILY
HOMEOWNER TAX RELIEF

HB 133 BUZZAS, ROSIE
INCREASE SCHOOL PER-ANB AND
BASIC ENTITLEMENT AMOUNTS

HB 177 HIBBARD, CHASE
INCREASE ELECTRIC GENERATION
TAX

HB 178 HIBBARD, CHASE
KILOWATT PURCHASER TAX

HB 191 GILLAN, KIM
EXCISE TAX ON RETAIL TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS SERVICES

Failed Legislation: School Finance

HB 199 COBB, JOHN
ELIMINATION OF CLASS SIX
PROPERTY TAX

HB 206 FISHER, STANLEY
LIMITATION ON TAXATION OF A
HOMESTEAD

HB 236 BARNETT, JOE
REQUIRE APPROVAL OF BOTH
SCHOOL BOARDS TO TRANSFER
TERRITORY BETWEEN DISTRICTS

HB 253 JORE, RICK
REPEAL INHERITANCE TAX

HB 272 KRENZLER, BILLIE
SMALL BUSINESS TAX INCENTIVE

HB 273 RANEY, BOB
REVISE USE OF BED TAX

HB 318 WALTERS, ALLAN
TUITION TAX CREDITS

HB 343 KRENZLER, BILLIE
HOMEOWNER PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF FOR FIRST \$50,000 IN VALUE

HB 347 MERCER, JOHN
APPROPRIATE COAL TRUST FUNDS
TO FUND K-12 EDUCATION

HB 385 SWANSON, EMILY
GREENBELT PROPERTY TAXES

HB 386 JORE, RICK
REDUCE INCOME TAX BY 20
PERCENT

HB 393 FUCHS, DANIEL
LOCAL TAX AUTHORITY FOR PROP-
ERTY TAX RELIEF

HB 403 RANEY, BOB
RECREATIONAL HOME TAX

HB 413 BECK, GARY
REVISE EDUCATION FUNDING
FOR CHILDREN PLACED BY STATE
AGENCIES

HB 434 ERICKSON, RON
AUTHORIZE LOCAL REQUIREMENT
FOR SUBDIVIDERS TO PAY FOR
IMPACTS ON SCHOOLS

HB 456 SMITH, FRANK
PROHIBITING EXTENSION OF
SCHOOL BUS ROUTE OUTSIDE
SERVICE AREA WITHOUT A VOTE

HB 472 BUZZAS, ROSIE
REVISE TRANSPORTATION OF
STUDENTS FOR CURRICULUM
RELATED PURPOSES

HB 501 OHS, KARL
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HB 510 BERGSAGEL, PEGGY
TAX EXEMPTION FOR SCHOOL
EXPENSES

HB 567 NOENNIG, MARK
IMPLEMENT ARTICLE VIII,
SECTION 17

HB 589 MCCULLOCH, LINDA
INCREASE MINIMUM LIABILITY
INSURANCE ON SCHOOL BUS

HB 622 WITT, JOHN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

HB 628 HAINES, DICK
REVISE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
LAWS

HB 662 WALTERS, ALLAN
ELIMINATE TAX ON PORTION OF
MOTOR VEHICLES

Failed Legislation: School Finance

HB 665 FACEY, TOM
REVISE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF NEW IMPROVEMENTS

HB 667 HIBBARD, CHASE
REVISE RATE FOR CLASS 10 PROPERTY

HB 668 HIBBARD, CHASE
SPECIFY METHODS OF ASSESSING CLASS NINE AND 12 PROPERTIES

HB 673 DAVIES, BOB
RIGHT TO VOTE ON TAX ENACTMENTS AND INCREASES

HB 675 FUCHS, DAN
EXEMPT OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES FROM PROPERTY TAXES; REDUCE BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX RATE

HB 677 LINDEEN, MONICA
COUNTY MAY INCREASE LEVY FOR LOSS OF VALUATION DUE TO RECLASSIFICATION

HB 678 STORY, BOB
REVISE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SB 16 KEENAN, BOB
LIMIT LIABILITY FOR Y2K MILLENNIUM ERRORS

SB 61 ELLIS, ALVIN
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR ACQUISITION VALUATION

SB 83 HALLIGAN, MIKE
WHOLESALE ENERGY TRANSACTION TAX

SB 85 HALLIGAN, MIKE
REVISING PROPERTY TAXATION OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITIES

SB 86 HALLIGAN, MIKE
CREATION OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION TAX CLASS

SB 92 DOHERTY, STEVE
CIRCUIT BREAKER ON PROPERTY TAXES FOR LOW INCOME AND ELDERLY CITIZENS

SB 104 BECK, TOM
ADJUST SCHOOL FUNDING FOR UNUSUAL ENROLLMENT INCREASES OF 4 PERCENT

SB 121 DEVLIN, GERRY
REVISE APPRAISAL METHOD FOR SUBDIVIDED AGRICULTURAL LAND

SB 135 SPRAGUE, MIKE
USE MARKET VALUE FOR PROPERTY APPRAISAL, ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

SB 143 SPRAGUE, MIKE
4 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX

SB 146 ELLIS, ALVIN
IMPLEMENTS ACQUISITION VALUATION FOR PROPERTY TAXATION

SB 150 JERGESON, GREG
ALLOW SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT WITHIN 3 MILE LIMIT

SB 157 SPRAGUE, MIKE
GENERALLY REVISE TAXATION

SB 256 GROSFIELD, LORENTS
REVISE STATUTES CONTAINING FEES

SB 261 HALLIGAN, MIKE
SCHOOL DISTRICT MINIMUM BUDGET AUTHORITY

Failed Legislation: School Finance

SB 300 HERTEL, JOHN
REVISE DATE SCHOOL TRUSTEES
ASSUME OFFICE

SB 308 BOHLINGER, JOHN
COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

SB 312 HALLIGAN, MIKE
REVISE REQUIREMENTS FOR MILL
CERTIFICATION

SB 422 TOEWS, DARYL
REVISE SCHOOL LAWS RELATED TO
TUITION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

SB 442 STANG, SPOOK
REVISE SCHOOL LAWS TO COMPLY
WITH CI-75

SB 516 ELLIS, ALVIN
REVISE TAXATION OF BUSINESS
EQUIPMENT

SB 517 ELLIS, ALVIN
GENERALLY REFORM INCOME
TAXES

SB 518 COLE, MACK
BUSINESS CONSUMPTION TAX ACT

SB 519 COLE, MACK
ELIMINATE MOST TAX INCENTIVES

SB 520 COLE, MACK
STREAMLINE AND SIMPLIFY LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL
FUNDING

SB 523 ELLIS, ALVIN
REVISE CERTAIN TAXES AS PART OF
TAX REFORM

SB 524 ECK, DOROTHY
AGGREGATE LIMITS ON FEDERAL
TAX AND MORTGAGE INTEREST
INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS

SB 525 DEVLIN, GERRY
ENACT A STATEWIDE GENERAL 4
PERCENT RETAIL SALES AND USE
TAX

SB 526 DEVLIN, GERRY
PROHIBIT STATEWIDE PROPERTY
TAX FOR EDUCATION

SB 527 DEVLIN, GERRY
PROHIBIT TAX ON BUSINESS EQUIP-
MENT AND LIGHT VEHICLES

SB 528 DEVLIN, GERRY
PROHIBIT TAX ON LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY

Teacher Certification

HB 66 COBB, JOHN

AGENCY NOTIFICATION OF TURN AROUND TIME FOR LICENSES

CHAPTER NUMBER: 53 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/99

Applications for licenses issued by state agencies must include, as an attachment or on the form, the estimated time it will take for the agency to complete the application process and issue the license. OPI plans to include this information on all applications for teacher certification beginning in the Fall of 1999.

HB 301 MCCANN, MATT

**HIRING UNLICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

CHAPTER NUMBER: 367 EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/20/99

A school district or special education cooperative may hire, on an annual basis, a person who does not meet the licensing requirements for a speech-language pathologist. To do so, the district must advertise for a licensed speech-language pathologist at least once a week for three consecutive weeks in the following publications: a newspaper of general circulation in which the agency is located, the Montana Job Service, the Montana University System, and both the American and Montana Speech-Language and Hearing Association Employment Placement Services. The vacancy must be advertised upon the completion of each school fiscal year, in which the unlicensed employee is employed. The employee may serve in this capacity for up to three years without a license.

An employee hired under this provision must have completed a four-year program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders. Written proof of enrollment in a program that meets the licensing requirement within three years of the date of hire must be on file with OPI's division of certification. This bill is retroactive to January 1, 1998 and sunsets on June 30, 2003.

HB 414 JOHNSON, ROYAL

REVISE ALLOCATION OF TEACHER AND SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION FEE

CHAPTER NUMBER: 165 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/99

Four dollars of the six dollar licensing/certification fee will be allocated to Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) for its operation. The remaining two dollars will be used to fund CSPAC research projects. Prior to July 1, 1999 the six-dollar fee was split equally between operation and research.

Failed Legislation: Teacher Certification

HB 145 MASOLO, GAY ANN
STIPEND FOR TEACHERS RECEIVING
NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

HB 590 LAWSON, BOB
BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CER-
TAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

HB 588 LAWSON, BOB
SUBMIT FEE FOR FINGERPRINTING
FOR TEACHER LICENSURE TO ELEC-
TORATE

Index of K-12 Education-Related Bills

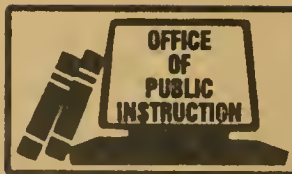
Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
HB 2	Zook	General Appropriations Bill	P	Appropriations
HB 13	Johnson	Pay Plan for State Employees	P	Employment Relations
HB 21	Pavlovich	Fund Certain Educational Programs with Lottery Net Proceeds	F	School Finance
HB 34	Stovall	Fund Non-Beneficiary Students at Tribal Colleges	F	School Finance
HB 37	Quilici	School Disaster Preparedness	F	Safety
HB 39	Gillan	Exempt Business Equipment	F	School Finance
HB 45	Lawson	Revise Law Governing Possession of Weapon in School Zone	F	Safety
HB 60	Cobb	Increase Cigarette Tax to Fund Children's Health Insurance	F	School Finance
HB 66	Cobb	Agency Notification of Turn -Around Time for Licenses	P	Teacher Certification
HB 68	Cobb	Cigarette Tax Increase Ballot Measure	F	School Finance
HB 71	Rose	Limit Impact of Enrollment Decrease to 6 Percent	P	School Finance
HB 72	Mercer	Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjustment for TRS	P	Employment Relations
HB 79	Brainard	Defined Contribution Plan Within PERS	P	Employment Relations
HB 81	Menahan	Revise Sentence for Youth Who Commit Serious Offenses	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 86	Wyatt	Business Equipment Tax Reduction	F	School Finance
HB 90	Hagener	Allow District to Estimate Non-Levy Revenue for Computing General Fund Levy	P	School Finance
HB 103	Peck	Revise School General Fund Budget Voting Law	F	School Finance
HB 108	Swanson	Homeowner Tax Relief	F	School Finance
HB 114	McCulloch	Motorist to Yield to Bus Entering Traffic	F	Safety
HB 118	Mood	Revise Teachers' Retirement Laws	P	Employment Relations
HB 119	Mood	Meet Qualifications for Tax-Deferred Qualified State Retirement Laws	P	Employment Relations
HB 122	Jore	Workers Freedom Act	F	Employment Relations
HB 128	Gillan	Revise Telecommunications Tax	P	School Finance
HB 131	Kasten	Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Use	F	Appropriations
HB 133	Buzzas	Increase School Per-ANB and Basic Entitlement Amounts	F	School Finance
HB 140	Pavlovich	Revise Lottery Laws	F	Appropriations
HB 143	Somerville	Peer Review Court for Juveniles	F	At-Risk Youth
HB 145	Masolo	Stipend for Teachers Receiving National Certification	F	Teacher Certification
HB 149	Davies	Revise Authority for Administrative Regulations of Firearms	F	Safety
HB 174	Hibbard	Revise Taxation of Electrical Generation Facilities	P	School Finance
HB 176	Bergsagel, E.	Maintain Electronic Youth Court Records	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 177	Hibbard	Increase Electric Generation Tax	F	School Finance
HB 178	Hibbard	Kilowatt Purchaser Tax	F	School Finance
HB 180	Soft	Guardianship Petition for Youth in Need of Care	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 191	Gillan	Excise Tax on Retail Telecommunications Services	F	School Finance
HB 199	Cobb	Elimination of Class Six Property Tax	F	School Finance
HB 206	Fisher	Limitation on Taxation of a Homestead	F	School Finance
HB 236	Barnett	Require Approval of Both School Boards to Transfer Territory Between Districts	F	School Finance
HB 242	Jore	Eliminate Compulsory Enrollment and Non-Public School Requirements	F	Accred/Curriculum
HB 243	Lawson	Revise Laws Governing Child Protective Services	F	At-Risk Youth
HB 247	Harrington	Revise Unemployment Laws for Certain School Employees	F	Employment Relations
HB 249	Harrington	Increase Minimum Wage	F	Employment Relations

Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
HB 253	Jore	Repeal Inheritance Tax	F	School Finance
HB 256	Cobb	State Contribution to Deferred Compensation Plan	F	Employment Relations
HB 261	Noennig	Revise Law on Immunity and Liability	F	Safety
HB 269	Molnar	Family Advocacy Program	F	At-Risk Youth
HB 272	Krenzler	Small Business Tax Incentive	F	School Finance
HB 273	Raney	Revise Use of Bed Tax	F	School Finance
HB 301	McCann	Hiring Unlicensed Speech-Language Pathologist Under Certain Conditions	P	Accred/Curriculum
HB 303	Krenzler	Restrict Use of Tobacco Settlement Proceeds to Purposes Related to Claims Made	F	Appropriations
HB 304	Noennig	Clarify the Bidding Requirements for Professional Services Rendered to a School District	P	School Finance
HB 310	Molnar	School Notice of Youth Violating Statute	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 312	Galvin-Halcro	Binding Arbitration for Public Employers	F	Employment Relations
HB 318	Walters	Tuition Tax Credits	F	School Finance
HB 321	Fuchs	Revise Inspection Requirements for Passenger Elevators	F	Safety
HB 323	Brainard	Allow Certain 15-Year-Olds to be Licensed as Drivers	F	Safety
HB 335	Vick	Eliminate Arts Council and Provide Funding for Art Education and Appreciation	F	Accred/Curriculum
HB 342	Raney	Revise Restrictions on Tax Election Information	F	Elections
HB 343	Krenzler	Homeowner Property Tax Relief for First \$50,000 in Value	F	School Finance
HB 347	Mercer	Appropriate Coal Trust Funds to Fund K-12 Education	F	School Finance
HB 348	Facey	Change Required School Board Meeting Date from July to August	P	School Finance
HB 356	Gillan	Graduated Driver Licensing Program	F	Safety
HB 372	Cobb	Allocate Tobacco Settlement Proceeds	F	Appropriations
HB 376	Walters	Limit Internet Access to Obscene Material	F	Accred/Curriculum
HB 378	Fuchs	Reward Retain, and Attract High Quality Teachers	F	Employment Relations
HB 381	Molnar	Repeal Contractor Registration	F	Employment Relations
HB 385	Swanson	Greenbelt Property Taxes	F	School Finance
HB 386	Jore	Reduce Income Tax by 20 Percent	F	School Finance
HB 393	Fuchs	Local Tax Authority for Property Tax Relief	F	School Finance
HB 403	Raney	Recreational Home Tax	F	School Finance
HB 406	Williams	Education Trust Fund	F	Appropriations
HB 413	Beck, G.	Revise Education Funding for Children Placed by State Agencies	F	School Finance
HB 414	Johnson	Revise Allocation of Teacher and Specialist Certification Fee	P	Teacher Certification
HB 419	McCulloch	Inter-Entity Bond Issues	P	School Finance
HB 420	Dale	Allow Deduction of Transportation Costs in Computing Taxes on Metal Mines	P	School Finance
HB 434	Erickson	Authorize Local Requirement for Subdividers to Pay for Impacts on Schools	F	School Finance
HB 445	Juneau	Same Day Voter Registration	F	Elections
HB 446	Juneau	Authorize Inactive List Voters to Vote in State and Local Elections	F	Elections
HB 456	Smith	Prohibiting Extension of School Bus Route Outside Service Area Without a Vote	F	School Finance
HB 469	Brainard	Revise Campaign and Election Laws	F	Elections
HB 472	Buzzas	Revise Transportation of Students for Curriculum- Related Purposes	F	School Finance
HB 489	Wagner	Expand Drug Testing Laws	F	Employment Relations
HB 496	Curtiss	One School Levy Election Per Year	F	Elections
HB 501	Ohs	Government Performance and Accountability Act	F	School Finance

Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
HB 510	Bergsagel, P.	Tax Exemption for School Expenses	F	School Finance
HB 528	Juneau	American Indian Educational Program	P	Accred/Curriculum
HB 529	Juneau	Indian Preference in Education	F	Employment Relations
HB 540	Grinde	Registration Fee on Light Vehicles	P	School Finance
HB 549	Lindeen	Lower Compulsory School Attendance to Age Six	F	Accred/Curriculum
HB 567	Noennig	Implement Article VIII, Section 17	F	School Finance
HB 568	McCann	Appropriate \$2 Million to Rebuild Hays-Lodgepole School	F	Appropriations
HB 583	Thomas	Provide Leave for State Employee Disaster and Emergency Work	P	Employment Relations
HB 584	Juneau	Classroom Use of Surplus State Property	P	Accred/Curriculum
HB 588	Lawson	Submit Fee for Fingerprinting for Teacher Licensure to Electorate	F	Teacher Certification
HB 589	McCulloch	Increase Minimum Liability Insurance on School Bus	F	School Finance
HB 590	Lawson	Background Checks for Certain School Employees	F	Teacher Certification
HB 608	Somerville	Revise Funding for Gifted and Talented Education	F	Accred/Curriculum
HB 613	Mangan	DPHHS to Administer Tobacco Education Curriculum	F	Appropriations
HB 616	Lindeen	Provide for the Receipt of Public Comment by E-Mail	P	School Finance
HB 622	Witt	Local Government Study	F	School Finance
HB 628	Haines	Revise School Administration Laws	F	School Finance
HB 650	Facey	Increase TANF Funds To Be Used For Adult Literacy and Basic Education For FAIM	F	Appropriations
HB 658	Clark, E.	Revise Local Government Severance Tax to Include "Stripper Well Exemption"	P	School Finance
HB 661	Rehbein	Revise Taxation of Oil Production From a Stripper Well	P	School Finance
HB 662	Walters	Eliminate Tax on Portion of Motor Vehicles	F	School Finance
HB 665	Facey	Revise Assessment and Taxation of New Improvements	F	School Finance
HB 667	Hibbard	Revise Rate for Class 10 Property	F	School Finance
HB 668	Hibbard	Specify Methods of Assessing Class 9 and 12 Properties	F	School Finance
HB 669	Story	Revise Taxation of Rail Transportation Property	P	School Finance
HB 673	Davies	Right to Vote on Tax Enactments and Increases	F	School Finance
HB 675	Fuchs	Exempt Owner-Occupied Homes From Property Taxes; Reduce Business Equipment Tax Rate	F	School Finance
HB 677	Lindeen	County May Increase Levy for Loss of Valuation Due to Reclassification	F	School Finance
HB 678	Story	Revise Distribution of Revenue to Local Government	F	School Finance
HJ 1	McCulloch	Support School Funding	P	School Finance
HJ 2	Story	Revenue Estimating Resolution	P	School Finance
HJ 13	McKenney	Urge First Aid and CPR Training for School Personnel	P	Safety
HJ 14	Adams	Urge Adoption of Eddie Eagle Elementary Gun Safety Education Program	P	Accred/Curriculum
HJ 20	Quilici	Urge Schools to Use Local and State Expertise in Emergency Management	P	Safety
HJ 21	Lawson	Urge Use of Intergenerational Mentors in Public Schools	P	Accred/Curriculum
HJ 25	Gillan	Resolution Urging Lower Speed Limits in School Zones	P	Safety
HJ 28	Grinde	Urge Congressional Action on Special Education	P	School Finance
HJ 29	Barnhart	Interim Study of Laws Governing Counties	P	School Finance
SB 3	Toews	Clarify School Discipline Statutes	F	Accred/ Curriculum
SB 5	Tester	Eliminate PERS Membership Fee	P	Employment Relations
SB 15	Cole	Computation of Reimbursements for Reduction in Business Equipment Tax Rate	P	School Finance
SB 16	Keenan	Limit Liability for Y2K Millennium Errors	F	School Finance
SB 31	Stang	Revise Schedule of BASE Aid Payments	P	School Finance
SB 37	Keenan	Require Liability Insurance for Motorcycles	F	Safety

Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
SB 38	Ellis	Revise Laws Governing Printing of Ballots	F	Elections
SB 49	Swysgood	Revise Allocation of Metal Mines Taxes and RIT Earnings	P	School Finance
SB 54	Halligan	Revise Youth Court Act	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 61	Ellis	Constitutional Amendment for Acquisition Valuation	F	School Finance
SB 65	Shea	Revise Laws Governing Possession of Weapon on School Property	F	Safety
SB 69	Stang	Generally Revise and Clarify School Finance Laws	P	School Finance
SB 81	Harp	Establish Children's Health Insurance Program	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 83	Halligan	Wholesale Energy Transaction Tax	F	School Finance
SB 85	Halligan	Revising Property Taxation of Electrical Generation Facilities	F	School Finance
SB 86	Halligan	Creation of Electrical Transmission and Distribution Tax Class	F	School Finance
SB 90	Stang	Revise Veterans' Preference Law	P	Employment Relations
SB 92	Doherty	Circuit Breaker on Property Taxes for Low-Income and Elderly Citizens	F	School Finance
SB 100	Harp	Increase Basic Entitlement and Per-ANB Entitlements	P	School Finance
SB 104	Beck, T.	Adjust School Funding for Unusual Enrollment Increases of 4 Percent	F	School Finance
SB 111	Depratu	Exemption of Intangible Property From Taxation	P	School Finance
SB 121	Devlin	Revise Appraisal Method for Subdivided Agricultural Land	F	School Finance
SB 124	Beck, T.	Revise Mental Health Laws	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 131	Swysgood	Revise Laws Governing Community Service	P	Accred/Curriculum
SB 134	Malhum	Eliminate Individual Liability for School Trustees	P	School Finance
SB 135	Sprague	Use Market Value for Property Appraisal, Assessment and Taxation	F	School Finance
SB 140	Nelson	Remove Restrictions on Absentee Voting	P	Elections
SB 143	Sprague	4 Percent Sales and Use Tax	F	School Finance
SB 146	Ellis	Implement Acquisition Valuation for Property Taxation	F	School Finance
SB 150	Jergeson	Allow School Transportation Reimbursement Within Three-Mile Limit	F	School Finance
SB 152	Wells	Declaring that the Right of Parents to Direct Upbringing of Children as a Fundamental Right	F	Accred/Curriculum
SB 157	Sprague	Generally Revise Taxation	F	School Finance
SB 184	Grosfield	Generally Revise Property Tax Law	P	School Finance
SB 195	Lynch	Revise Military Service Purchase Provisions for PERS	P	Employment Relations
SB 199	Christiaens	Mandatory Education for Youth in Detention Centers	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 200	Taylor	Reduction in Tax Rates for Class 6 and Class 8 Property	P	School Finance
SB 204	Keating	Charter School Enabling Legislation	F	Accred/Curriculum
SB 228	Glaser	Revise Election Dates	F	Elections
SB 229	Thomas	Revise Prevailing Wage Laws	P	Employment Relations
SB 240	Grimes	Require Government Entity to Pay Interest When Money is Owed to a Contractor	P	School Finance
SB 246	Mahlum	Revise School District Investments	P	School Finance
SB 247	Glaser	Use Tobacco Settlement Proceeds to Implement Federal Medicaid Requirements	F	Appropriations
SB 250	Bartlett	Repeal Extended Jurisdiction Prosecution Act	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 256	Grosfield	Revise Statutes Containing Fees	F	School Finance
SB 260	Glaser	Reduce Light Vehicle Tax	P	School Finance
SB 261	Halligan	School District Minimum Budget Authority	F	School Finance
SB 274	Wilson	Exempting Space Vehicles from Taxation	P	School Finance
SB 288	Nelson	School Territory Transfer	P	School Finance
SB 295	Doherty	Strike GABA Return to Work Provisions	F	Employment Relations

Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
SB 299	Hertel	Allow Purchase of Additional Transportation Bus from Depreciation Fund	P	School Finance
SB 300	Hertel	Revise Date School Trustees Assume Office	F	School Finance
SB 306	Grimes	Continuity of Care in Child Custody Matters	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 308	Bohlinger	College Savings Accounts	F	School Finance
SB 309	Bohlinger	Revise Compulsory Attendance and Truancy Laws	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 312	Halligan	Revise Requirements for Mill Certification	F	School Finance
SB 323	Doherty	Establish Health Care Trust with Tobacco Settlement Proceeds	F	Appropriations
SB 325	Hertel	Revise School Trustee Election Procedures	P	Elections
SB 328	Ellingson	Prohibit Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation	F	Employment Relations
SB 364	Eck	Allow Standardized Application Under Medicaid and Related Programs	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 422	Toews	Revise School Laws Related to Tuition and Special Education	F	School Finance
SB 428	Stang	Transfer Motorcycle Safety Training Programs to Regents	P	Accred/Curriculum
SB 442	Stang	Revise School Laws to Comply With CI-75	F	School Finance
SB 454	Beck, T.	Require State Prison Ranch PILT Payments	P	School Finance
SB 460	Ellis	Generally Revise School Laws	P	School Finance
SB 489	Bohlinger	Use Tobacco Settlement Proceeds for Prevention and Children's Health Care	F	Appropriations
SB 516	Ellis	Revise Taxation of Business Equipment	F	School Finance
SB 517	Ellis	Generally Reform Income Taxes	F	School Finance
SB 518	Cole	Business Consumption Tax Act	F	School Finance
SB 519	Cole	Eliminate Most Tax Incentives	F	School Finance
SB 520	Cole	Streamline and Simplify Local Government and School Funding	F	School Finance
SB 523	Ellis	Revise Certain Taxes as Part of Tax Reform	F	School Finance
SB 524	Eck	Aggregate Limits on Federal Tax and Mortgage Interest Income Tax Deductions	F	School Finance
SB 525	Devlin	Enact a Statewide General 4 Percent Retail Sales and Use Tax	F	School Finance
SB 526	Devlin	Prohibit Statewide Property Tax for Education	F	School Finance
SB 527	Devlin	Prohibit Tax on Business Equipment and Light Vehicles	F	School Finance
SB 528	Devlin	Prohibit Tax on Livestock and Poultry	F	School Finance
SB 530	Bishop	Generally Revise the Taxation of Oil and Natural Gas Production	P	School Finance
SJ 2	Bartlett	Urge Financial Planning As Part of School Curriculum	P	Accred/Curriculum
SJ 12	Cole	Urge Congress Not To Keep State Tobacco Settlement Proceeds	P	Appropriations



**Nancy Keenan, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

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